

SJHSNA Admission Requirements

DNP NA Program admission requirements are consistent with the COA of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, the School, and Rhode Island College.

The DNP NA program has a limited number of spots for each cohort and meeting the minimum requirements for admission does not guarantee admission to the Program. The admissions committee members are the deciding personnel for selection of applicants into the Program.

The following information is the current application requirements for admission:

1. A completed application form accompanied by a \$50 nonrefundable application fee.
2. A baccalaureate degree in nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited program.
3. Applicants with international degree and grade equivalency to that of a regionally accredited institution in the United States.
4. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate records.
5. A minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in undergraduate coursework.
6. A preferred undergraduate minimum of GPA of 3.0 in science courses.
7. An official report on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) from international applicants for whom English is not their first language.
8. A professional resume or curriculum vitae.
9. Three professional references. One must be from a clinical supervisor.
10. A statement of intent that demonstrates the candidate's leadership and practice experience and reasons for pursuing doctoral study. The statement should be representative of the applicant's writing ability. The statement should be a maximum of two typed pages, double-spaced, and written in 12-point font.
11. An in-person interview is required.

Additional requirements for DNP NA applicants include:

1. Completion of CHEM 106 or an undergraduate course in organic chemistry within the past 7 years, and with a minimum grade of C (preferred grade of B).
2. Current unrestricted licensure for practice in both the State of Rhode Island and the State of Massachusetts (due to clinical rotations in both states). Additional state licensure may be required for future clinical rotations.
3. Current AHA BLS and ACLS certification (PALS certification prior to clinical).
4. A minimum of one year of full-time critical care experience. A complete definition of accepted critical care experience is found on the SJHSNA website under the FAQ section.
5. CCRN certification is preferred.

Skills and abilities applicants and students must demonstrate:

The professional performance skills and abilities that applicants, students, and graduates must display are outlined below. A graduate of the program must be able to fulfill the professional performance skills, responsibilities, and duties of a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist that is consistent with the American Association of Nurse Anesthetist (AANA) *Professional Practice Manual for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist* documents: *Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice*, *Code of Ethics for the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiology*, and *Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice*. A candidate for the program must be able to demonstrate the following abilities and skills laid out in the five categories: Communication, Motor, Physical Stamina, Intellectual, Behavioral and Social Attributes. Reasonable accommodation for those with documented disabilities will be considered on an individual basis, but a candidate must be able to perform in an independent manner. Both applicants and students are required to update the Program on any health-related changes/status (including medications) that may have an impact on observation, communication, motor, physical stamina, intellectual, behavioral, and social attributes listed below. Also, candidates and students are required to update the Program of any health-related changes/status that may impact vigilance, alertness, and the ability to exercise safe patient care at all times.

Observation: Students must have sufficient sensory capacity to observe in lecture, the laboratory and all perioperative settings. Sensory skills adequate to perform a physical examination. Functional hearing and tactile sensation must be adequate to observe a patient's condition and to elicit information from computerized monitors and procedures regularly required in a physical examination, such as inspection, auscultation and palpation.

Communication: Students must be able to communicate effectively in both academic and healthcare settings. Candidates must show evidence of effective written and verbal communication skills and the ability to work in teams.

Motor: The ability to participate in basic, diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers and procedures (e.g. palpation, auscultation, drawing blood, starting IV) is required. Candidates must have sufficient motor skills to execute movements reasonably required to provide care to patients related to anesthesia practice, including but not limited to the ability to help move or lift them. Candidates must be able to move between settings, such as clinic, classroom building and hospital.

Physical Stamina: Sufficient to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study is required. Long periods of sitting, standing, or moving are required in classroom, laboratory and clinical experiences.

Intellectual: Students must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze and synthesize, both in quiet environments and in areas where distractions, noise and other stressors are present. Problem solving is a critical skill demanded of CRNA's. This requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates should be able to comprehend graphic displays of physiologic data, distinguish artifact on monitor display and understand three-dimensional relationships and the spatial relationships of structure. Candidates must be able to read and understand medical and nursing literature. In order to complete the degree, they must be able to demonstrate mastery of these skills and the ability to use them cohesively in a timely and often critical fashion in problem solving and patient care.

Behavioral and Social Attributes: Students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment and the prompt completing of all academic and patient care responsibilities. The development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and other members of the health care team is essential. The ability to effectively function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical practice, flexibility, compassion, integrity, motivation, interpersonal skills, and concern for others are all required. Students must understand situational awareness within their education, both in the didactic and clinical settings and apply them to practice.